

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 05413 011543Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /055 W  
-----020784 011547Z /43

P R 011510Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4853  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 5413

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, UR, NO  
SUBJECT: VISIT OF SOVIET ASSISTANT FOREIGN MINISTER ZIMSKOV

REF: OSLO 5392

1. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ANNOUNCED ON NOV 30  
THAT SOVIET ASSISTANT FOREIGN MINISTER IGOR ZIMSKOV WOULD  
VISIT NORWAY DEC 20-23. THE VISIT IS DESCRIBED AS A RETURN  
FOR THE STOLTENBERG VISIT TO MOSCOW LAST YEAR.

2. EASTERN EUROPEAN OFFICE DIRECTOR TELLMANN TOLD EMBOFF  
DEC 1 THAT THE SOVIETS HAD ON NOV 28 OR 29 (HE WAS UNSURE  
OF EXACT DATE, HAVING JUST RETURNED FROM ABROAD) INFORMED  
THE FOREGIN MINISTRY THAT ZIMSKOV WOULD ACCEPT THE STADNING  
INVITATION TO VISIT OSLO AND WOULD DO SO ON DEC 20 THROUGH  
23.

3. TELLMANN STATED THAT BECAUSE OF THE ABRUPTNESS OF THE  
SOVIET NOTIFICATION THE MFA HAD NOT AS YET HAD ANY CHANCE  
TO WORK OUT AN AGENDA. HE STATED, HOWEVER, THAT HE EXPECTED  
THE VISIT TO COVER "INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS" AND A RANGE OF  
BILATERAL ISSUES. HE STATED THAT SUCH ISSUES WOULD INCLUDE  
COMMERCIAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND ADDED THAT THE QUESTION  
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OF THE NORTHERN REGIONS WOULD ALSO, PERFORCE, ENTER INTO  
THE DISCUSSION.

4. TELLMANN STATED THAT ZIMSKOV WAS EXPECTED TO TRAVEL WITH  
ONLY ONE ASSISTANT AND AN INTERPRETOR. SUBSEQUENT TO HIS  
ARRIVAL ON THE 20TH, TELLMANN STATED, THERE WOULD BE TWO  
FULL DAYS OF CONSULTATIONS WITH GON OFFICIALS. TELLMANN

ALSO NOTED THAT THE MINISTRY WAS TRYING TO ARRANGE A "SIGHTSEEING" DAY FOR ZIMSKOV ON THE 23RD BUT THAT THE PROXIMITY TO CHIRSTMAN MADE THIS VERY DIFFICULT AND THAT THEIR PLANS FOR THE 23RD WERE VERY MUCH IN DOUBT.

5. THE ZIMSKOV VISIT DOES NOT, OF COURSE, ENTIRELY CLEAR THE DECK OF PENDING SOVIET VISITS SINCE THERE STILL REMAINS AN OUTSTANDING, TEN-YEAR-OLD INVITATION TO FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO WHICH HAS YET TO BE ACTED UPON BY THE USSR.

6. THE ZIMSKOV VISIT COMES ON THE HEELS OF THE SIGNING OF THE "GREY ZONE" AGREEMENT (REFTEL). WHILE THE BARENTS SEA FISHING QUESTION HAS BEEN TEMPORARILY (AND SOME FEEL UNSATISFACTORILY) RESOLVED, THERE REMAIN A NUMBER OF ISSUES PENDING BETWEEN NORWAY AND THE USSR. FOREMOST AMONG THESE ISSUES ARE THE BOUNDARY QUESTION, NORWEGIAN EXERCISE OF SOVEREIGNTY ON SVALBARD, AND THE SVALBARD FISHERIES PROTECTION ZONE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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